

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



A Publishers Weekly Big Graphic Novels of 2010 Selection

TWIN SPICA

3



Kou Yaginuma



CONTENTS

MISSION:09.....	003
MISSION:10.....	033
MISSION:11.....	065
MISSION:12.....	095
MISSION:13.....	125
★	
ASUMI'S CHERRY BLOSSOMS.....	155
ANOTHER SPICA.....	185





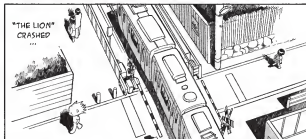
IF DAD WAS
INVOLVED IN
THE ACCIDENT...



THERE'S
NO WAY I
COULD ASK
MR. LION



IF DAD
WAS THE
REASON



MISSION:09





I
DUNNO
WHO
WAS
MISSING,



WHAT'RE
YOU ALL

DOING IN
HERE?!



YOUR
OWN
FUTURE
OVER
SOMEONE
ELSE'S!

YOU
SHOULD
MIND

BUT
THAT'S NO
EXCUSE TO
SKIP THE
PRACTICAL
TRAINING!



IT'S
FINE,

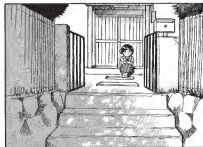
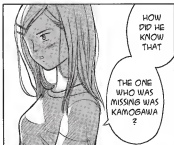
LET IT BE,
MR. NISHIDA.



OW
!!

GET
YOUR
HANDS
OUTTA
YOUR
POCKETS
!!





BUT HE'S
NEVER SAID
MUCH ELSE ABOUT
HIS PAST.

DAD TOLD ME
HE WAS A
ROCKET
ENGINEER.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT IF
WHAT THAT
TEACHER
SAID IS
TRUE?

I OUGHT
NOT TO GO TO
OUTER SPACE?

DOES IT
MEAN





DON'T
YOU?



YOU STILL
THINK
ABOUT HER,



WELL, THAT'S A FANCY THING
YOU'VE GOT, KID.





WHAT,
ARE YOU GONNA
PLAY A SONG
FOR YOUR GIRL
FROM SPACE?

HOW NICE.
AH, TO BE
YOUNG!



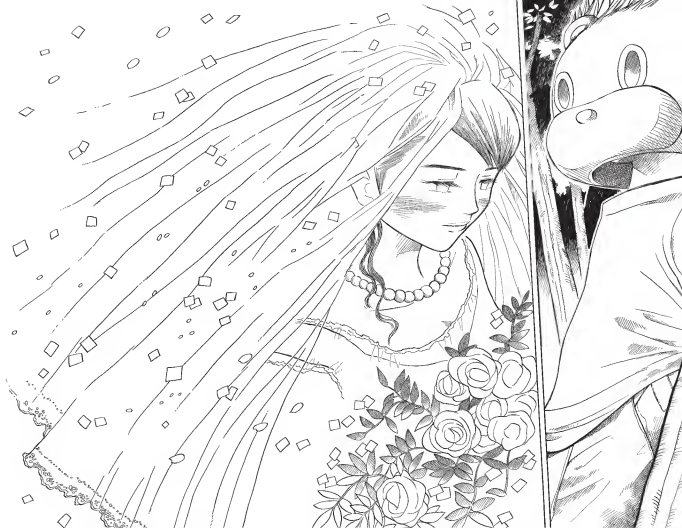
WHAT?
REALLY?

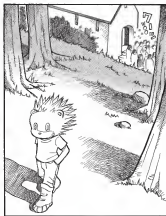
THAT'S MY
FAVORITE
SONG,
TOO!

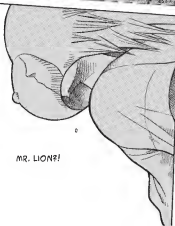
STOP
CALLING ME
TONE-DEAF!

I'LL ALSO BE
TEACHING
MUSIC TO
GRADE SCHOOL
KIDS!

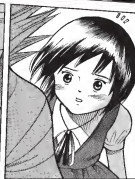








MR. LION?











IT'S NOT
ANY ONE
PERSON'S
FAULT,
EITHER.

OF
COURSE,



THEY'RE ALL
TRYING TO
MAKE UP FOR
WHAT THEY
LOST.

BUT
EVERYONE
INVOLVED WITH
"THE LION"
FEELS
RESPONSIBLE.



YOU LOVE
THE STARS

AND
YOU LONG
TO GO TO
OUTER
SPACE

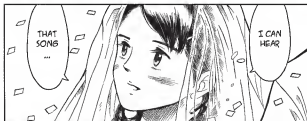


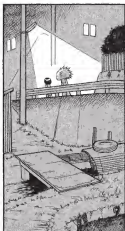
YOUR
DAD
IS
JUST
ONE
OF
THEM.

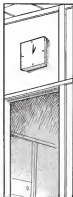
いっしょ
いっしょ
いっしょ
いっしょ
いっしょ

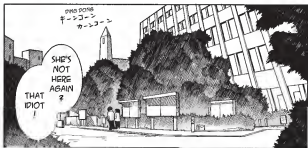






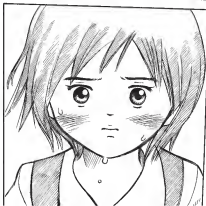
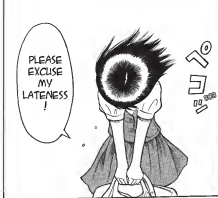




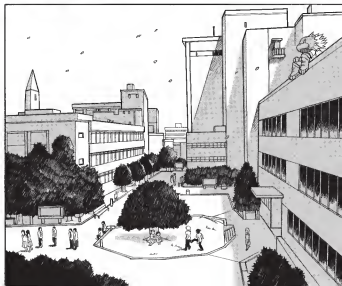




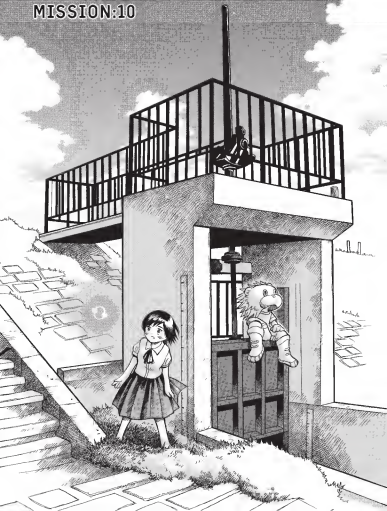








MISSION:10

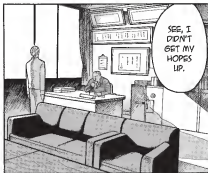




NO,
I'M
SORRY



SO DID
YOU GET
THAT STUDENT
TO QUIT
YET?



SEE, I
DIDN'T
GET MY
HOPES
UP.

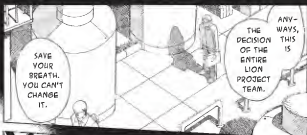


REALLY.

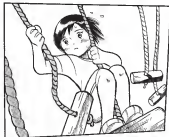
WELL,
I
DON'T
MIND.















ISN'T
THAT THE
POINT?

DO YOU
FELL
GOOD?

YAWN



PANT WHEEZE

EVEN SO,
IF THEY
KEEP
THIS UP,

TONS OF
KIDS WILL
DROP OUT,
I BET.



THAT NO
MATTER HOW
HARD IT GETS,
WE AREN'T
DROPPING OUT!

WE FOUR
AT LEAST
SHOULD
PROMISE



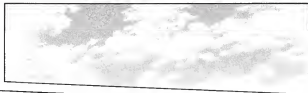
HUH?

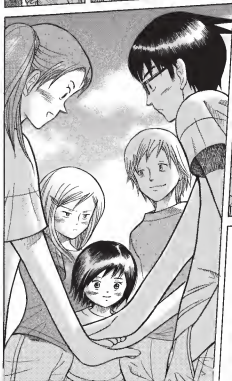
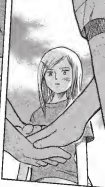
HEY,
ASUMI.
PROMISE
ME.

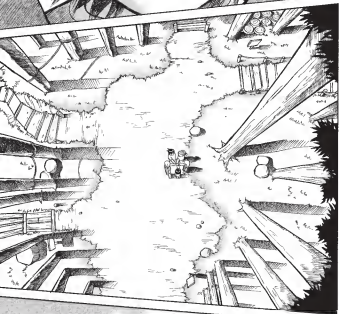
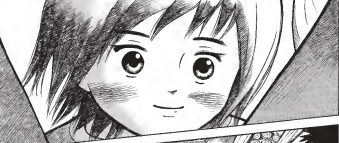


DON'T
STOP COMING
TO SCHOOL
UNTIL WE'VE
GRADUATED.



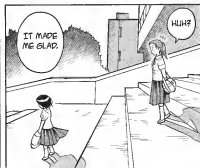


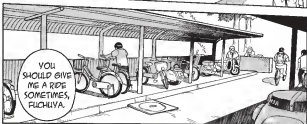


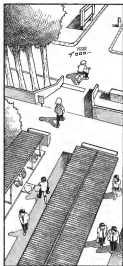
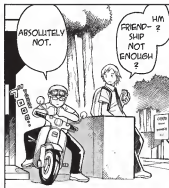


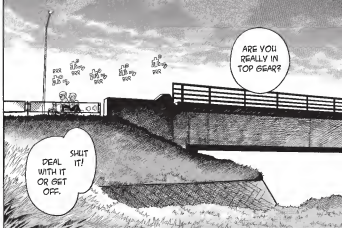
HEY,
ASUMI?







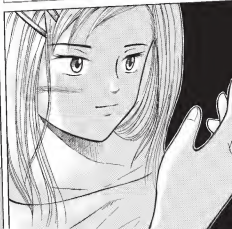








THIS IS AN
INTERESTING
NAME.





IT'S
PRONOUNCED
"UKITA."

UKITA?

YUP.



東京宇宙学校生徒名簿
TOKYO SPACE
SCHOOL STUDENT
REGISTRY



IT'S LIKE SHE
SIMPLY HAD
TO BE AN
ASTRONAUT.

UKITA—
"MANY JOYS
INSPIRED
BY THE
COSMOS."

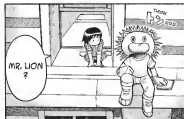


IS SHE
YOUR
FRIEND
?



SHE'S
REALLY
PRETTY.

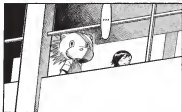
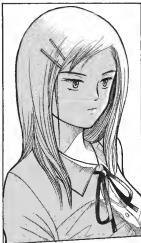
OH?

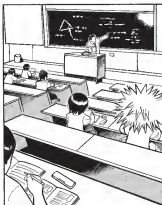
















YOUR
SILENCE
MAKES
YOU SEEM
PRETTY
GUILTY!



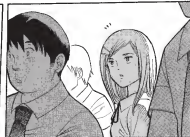
ASUMI'S
NOT
SAVING
ANYTHING
AT ALL!



I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
WANT.
I CAN'T
ANSWER
TO
SOME-
THING
I DON'T
RECALL



AND WHY
ARE YOU
COMING
TO ME
ABOUT
KAMOGAWA
?
DID SHE
SAY
SOME-
THING?

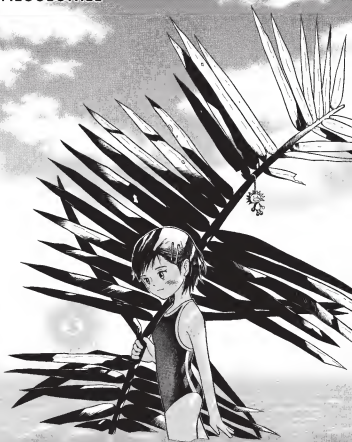


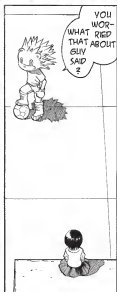
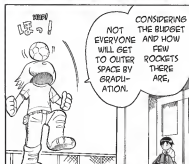
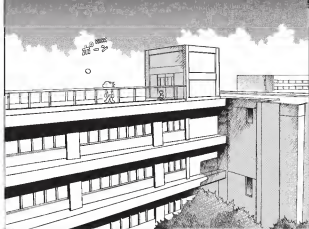






MISSION:11







JOHN
GLENN WAS
77 WHEN HE
WENT ON HIS
2ND MISSION,
Y'KNOW.



YOU KNEW
THAT,
RIGHT?

HE WAS THE
1ST AMERICAN
TO ORBIT
THE EARTH,
IN THE MERCURY
ATLAS 6 MISSION
OF 1962.



HE'S
PRETTY OLD,
YOU KNOW.

A RUSSIAN
ASTRO-
NAUT
HAD HIS
BIRTHDAY
ON THE ISS.
AND IN 2020,
WHAT'S
HIS NAME
...

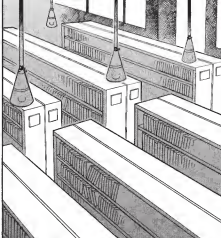
YOU'VE
ALL GOT
PLENTY OF
TIME AHEAD
OF YOU

WHAT
I MEAN IS,
YOU CAN GO
UP THERE
EVEN WHEN
YOU'RE
OLDER.

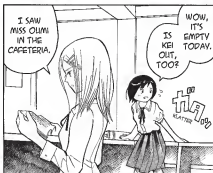
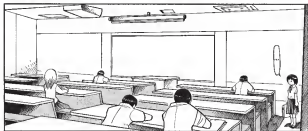
MR. LION,
I...

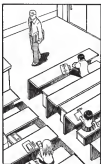
I GOTTA
GET A
BOOK
FROM THE
LIBRARY.

Jump



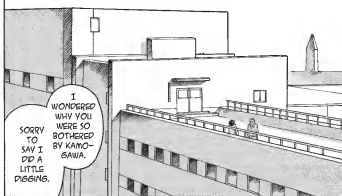


















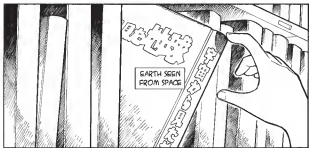




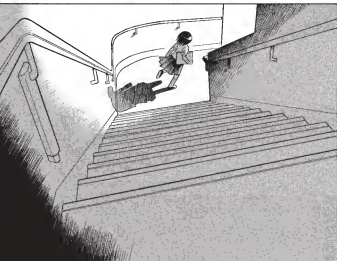
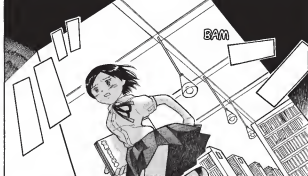


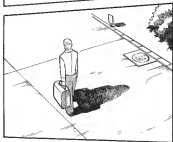




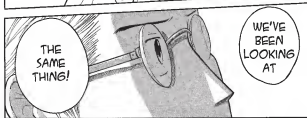














I WONDER
WHY...



I WISH
EVERYONE

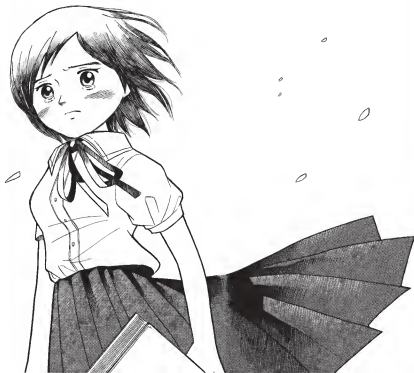
COULD GO
UP THERE.

DAD,
MR. SANO...

I WISH
MISS SUZUNARI,
MR. LION,

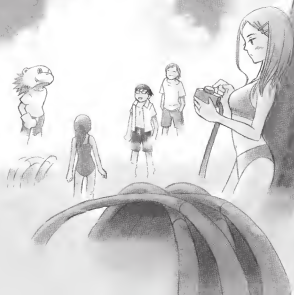
I WONDER WHY
ALL GROWN-UPS

SMILE
SO SADLY.



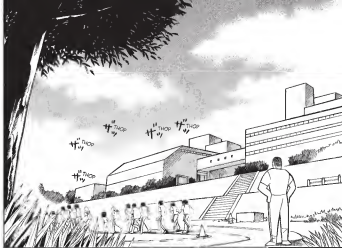


MISSION:12





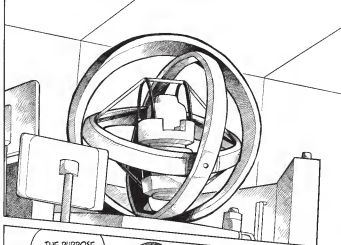












YOU'LL CONTINUE NEXT TERM.

THE PURPOSE IS TO DEVELOP YOUR EQUILIBRIUM IN A ZERO-G ENVIRONMENT.

キラッ
NEW

WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MAT, OR MULTI-AXIS TRAINER.

THE LAST STAGE FOR THE TERM.

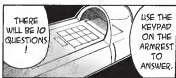


AS YOU'RE SPINNING, A SIMPLE MATH PROBLEM WILL APPEAR ON THE LED SCREEN.



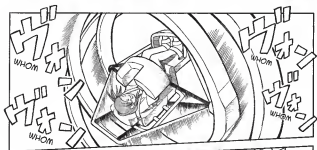
WOW!!

THIS IS WAY EASIER THAN BEING FORCED TO RUN COUNTLESS LAPS!



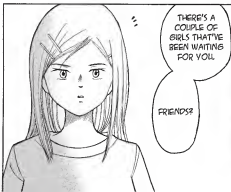
THERE WILL BE 10 QUESTIONS!

USE THE KEYPAD ON THE ARMREST TO ANSWER.

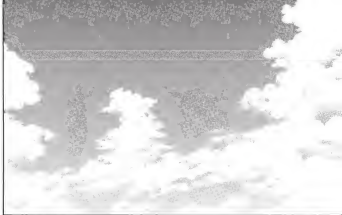


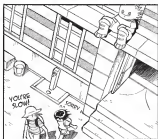






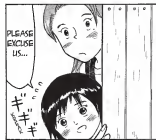


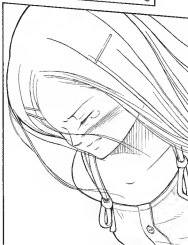














LET
ME
GO
!!

I SAID
GET
INSIDE
!!

NO
!!



LET
GO
!!



LET
GO
!!

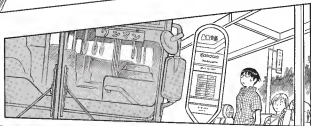


ド
カッ



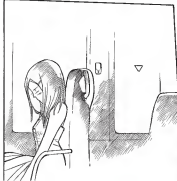
!!

ド
ス
ッ



WHY THE HELL ARE THEY SO LATE?

THIS IS THE 5TH BUS TO GO BY!











IF YOU
THINK OF
THE MILKY
WAY AS
A RIVER,

AND
SO

ON
THE
RIVER-
BED,
THUS
...

PEBBLES

THEN
ALL THE
LITTLE
STARS
ARE
LIKE
SAND
AND
PEB
...

I'D NEVER
BEEN OUTSIDE
OF THAT
ROOM.

UNTIL
THAT
DAY

BUT IF I
TRIED TO
LEAVE,
HE'D SCOLD
ME TERRIBLY.

I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY,

ALWAYS
THE SAME
ROUTINE.

ALWAYS
THE SAME
ROOM.

I ALWAYS
ATE
ALONE.

3
MEALS
A DAY,
AT THE
SAME
HOURS.

THE
SAME
TUTORS
AT THE
SAME
HOURS.

M
A
T
H

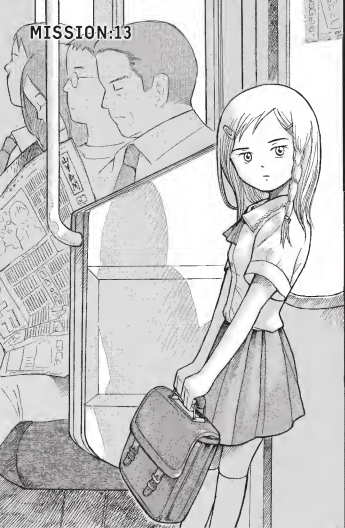
FROM THE SINGLE
HIGH WINDOW IN
THAT ROOM,

BUT

SLOWLY CHANGE
THEIR POSITIONS
EVERY NIGHT.

I COULD
SEE THE
STARS

MISSION:13



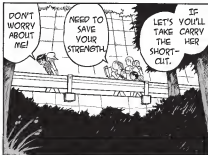
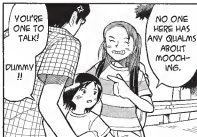


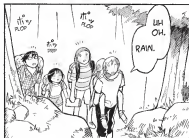










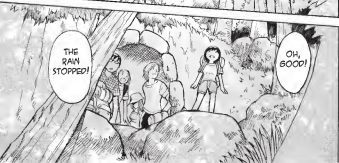


















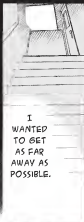
I DIDN'T
WANT TO GO
ANYWHERE IN
PARTICULAR.



I JUST
WANTED TO
RUN AWAY.



I JUST
WANTED
TO GET
AWAY
FROM
THERE.



I
WANTED
TO GET
AS FAR
AWAY AS
POSSIBLE.

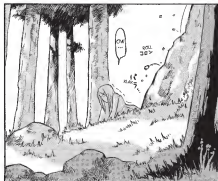


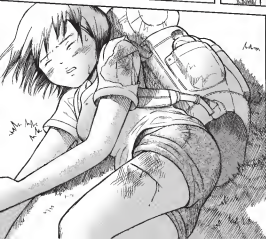
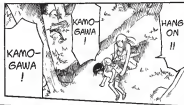
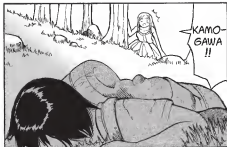
TO A PLACE
FAR, FAR
AWAY.













I
WONDER
WHICH
WAY
...



THAT
SOUND!
THE
SAME
AS...

!!



I CAN
CARRY
YOU.

HUFF

HUFF

I'M
FINE,
I CAN
WALK.
MARIKA.

HUFF

HUFF

BUT
YOUR
FEET
...

I SAID
I CAN
DO IT!



I
REALLY

EVEN IF
NO ONE
NOTICES,

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
MY FEET
HURT,

REALLY...

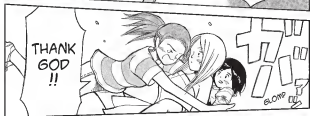
EVEN IF
I'M
ALONE,

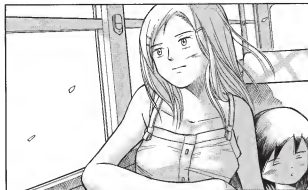
NO MATTER
HOW SHORT
OF BREATH,

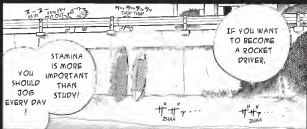
IT'S THE
SAME AS
THAT TIME
...







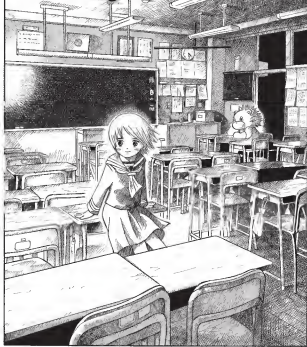




THIS
HAPPENED
A LONG,
LONG TIME
AGO...



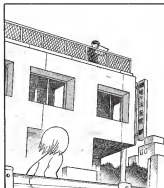
Asumi's Cherry Blossoms





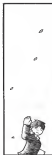






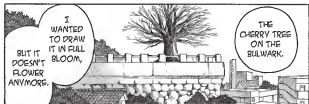
















THAT'S
ME.



YOU SURE
HAVE A LOT
OF BOOKS
ABOUT SPACE.



THEN I'LL
BRING YOU
SOMETHING
NEW.

YUP!

WHAT?
YOU'VE
READ IT
ALREADY?



I'VE BEEN
HOSPITALIZED
THERE SINCE
I WAS LITTLE.

THE
CORNER
ROOM ON
THE 2ND
FLOOR.



NATURALLY
I BECAME
INTERESTED
IN SPACE.

ALL I
COULD SEE
OUT THE
WINDOW WAS
THE SKY AND
THE STARS.

I WAS
BED-
RIDDEN.



I WAS
CURIOUS,
SO I READ
A LOT OF
BOOKS.

"HOW BIG
IS THE
UNIVERSE?"
"IS THE
END OF THE
UNIVERSE
WHITE?
BLACK?"



...

WHY...

WHY NOT?



BUT
I GUESS
I CAN'T.

MY DREAM
WAS TO
SEE FOR
MYSELF,



BUT
...

NONE
OF THE
BOOKS
HAD THE
ANSWERS.



WHAT
?



'CAUSE I
DON'T HAVE
LONG TO
LIVE.



YOU
CAN
!!

!!!

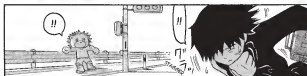


I'M
KIDDING!

I THOUGHT
YOU'D SAY
SOMETHING
RUNNY.

I CAN'T
BECAUSE
I'M NOT
SMART
ENOUGH.

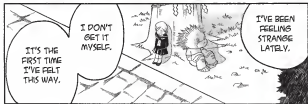














I DIDN'T KNOW,
BUT HE WAS
SO SICK
HE COULD
HARDLY
EVEN RUN.

...

199
P.L.P.

HE SAID
TO GIVE
THIS TO
YOU.

FINE,
SHE'S A
WEIRDO,
BUT
SHOULDN'T
SHE AT
LEAST CRY?

DON'T
YOU THINK
SHE'S BEING
AWFULLY
COLD?

HEY,

THE
ANSWER
IS...

...SO



I THINK IT'S
COOL THAT
YOU CAN
SEE HIM.

ISN'T THE
ASTRONAUT
GHOST
WITH YOU
TODAY?

YEAH,
AND ...

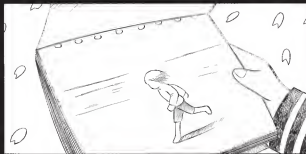
WHAT
A
BITCH.

DIDN'T
SHE SAY
SOMETHING
MEAN TO
HIM?

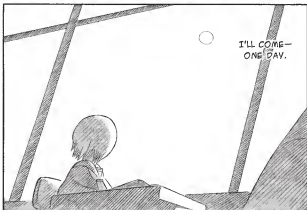






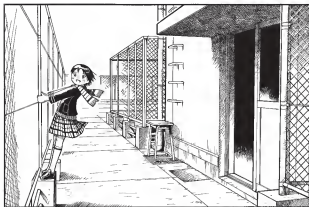






I'LL COME—
ONE DAY.

ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

STOP
READING
THAT CRAP
DURING
CLASS!

I longed for
the fun
school life
shown in
comic books.
I was typical.



I didn't have
any goals.
I just went
through the same
daily routine.



We were said
to embody
an era of
apathy.



It's not
that I'm
hung up
on those
days.



I settled on
the art club,
which met
only once
a week.



I'LL TEACH
IT TO YOU
LATER,
YAGHIMA.

The wind
ensemble had
lots of girls.
I lasted half
a year.



I thought playing
soccer might make
me popular, but
I quit right away...



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
TO DO?

Not for
the last
time.

DUNO



Basically,
I didn't
care about
my future.



I
WANNA
MAKE
MOVIES!

But right
before
college
exams,

I pulled
a 180.

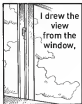


When I told my
teacher I wanted
to teach, he
was thrilled.



The same
went for
my
future.



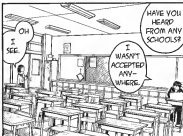




There were no more classes by then. Students only came to school to report their college exam results.



Winter, senior year.





there was a tiny inscription that

Shift
Kou
Yaginuma
Kasumi
Kamotani

I didn't recall writing.



Many winters later, I found that sketchbook stashed away in my room.



I wonder why such a trifling prank makes those dull days sparkle in my memory.



We were alone together in that empty classroom.

It makes my heart ache just slightly.

I think I understand a little better what she was talking about back then.



We don't belong there anymore.

The uniforms at my old school have changed.



Notes on the Translation

P. 23

The song "Look Up at the Stars at Night," from an eponymous musical, was covered in 1963 by Kyu Sakamoto of "Sukiyaki" fame. The song was chosen as the end theme of the animated TV series of *Twin Spica*.



P. 127

The name on display is *Yagi Shinbun*. The latter word means "newspaper"; the former plays on the first half of the author's surname but is written with the character for "goat"—an animal known for its taste for paper.



P. 163

The book is edited by a "Takashi Suwaribana," an allusion to leading journalist Takashi Tachibana (the character *tachi*, meaning "stand," has been replaced by the one for "sit"). He has authored acclaimed non-fiction books on astronauts, the cosmos, and numerous other subjects scientific and political.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Maya Rosewood
Christine Lee

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"Asumi no Sakura" first published in Gekkan Comic Flapper,
MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001

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No one ever said being part of the first astronaut class at the Tokyo Space School was going to be easy. The entire process has been a challenge for everyone involved. And grades are not all that matters.

Praise for *Twin Spica*

"[Yaginuma]'s work fuses *Twin Spica* with both a sense of childhood nostalgia as well as encouragement to venture beyond. Replace 'space exploration' with the goal of your choosing and you have the recipe for an inspiring parable of progress... It's refreshingly divergent from the majority of the manga on shelves at the moment."—*Otaku USA*

"The storytelling is direct and simple without being didactic, filled with the kind of characters that younger readers will recognize and embrace as true to their own experiences. At the same time, however, *Twin Spica's* subtexts are rich enough to sustain an adult's interest... A beautiful, thought-provoking book for star gazers of all ages."—*The Manga Critic*

